

## Watershed Operations

August 2009

### Introduction

The purpose of this project is watershed protection – to protect the soil resource base for sustained productivity. Due to excessive soil erosion of cropland, net farm income has been reduced.



The project is located in Nobles and Rock Counties, Minnesota.

## *Investing in the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed, Minnesota*

### Project Description

- **Location:** Nobles and Rock Counties, 1st Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$245,000

Working with the landowners, this project will install a variety of conservation practices to protect the land by reducing soil loss. Excessive soil erosion causes damage to roads, ditches, and culverts and degrades water quality in streams and rivers.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nobles County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District
- Nobles County Board of Commissioners

### Benefits

An estimated 2,630 residents, directly or indirectly, will benefit with improved water quality and land protection. When complete, this project will provide over \$1.4 million in average annual benefits.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



Conservation tillage and waterways are two conservation practices that will be utilized in the watershed.

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### Economic Opportunities

Agriculture and the supporting agricultural businesses provide the main source of income in this area of Southwest Minnesota. This project will maintain productivity on 52,000 acres of cropland by protecting it from excessive soil erosion. Conservation practices will be targeted to areas with soils that are more erosive due to length and steepness of slopes. Installing practices such as waterways, terraces, and grade stabilization structures will help create or save jobs using local land improvement contractors.

### Statewide Perspective

ARRA funds for the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed will accelerate the conservation and protection of the soil resources of southwest Minnesota. Already an authorized project through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, the Recovery Act accelerates the protection of the area's natural resources.

### For More Information

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Seeding grasses into erosive areas or buffers helps protect the soil and water quality.

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